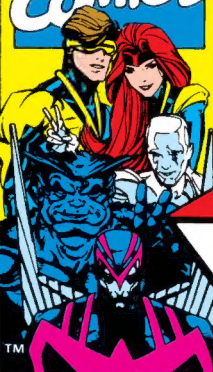


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CODE
AUTHORITY

THE
MUIR
ISLAND
SAGA

X-FORCE

PROFESSOR XTM VS.
SHADOW KINGTM!
IN FINAL BATTLE!

WASHINGTON, D.C.

BLIND, UNTHINKING, UNCARING, UNRELENTING
PREJUDICE HAS GRIPPED THE NATION'S
CAPITAL. SOME WOULD SAY IT HAS BEEN
BREWING FOR DECADES, OTHERS WILL
SWEAR IT HAPPENED OVERNIGHT.

IN MANY WAYS,
BOTH CLAIMS
ARE ACCURATE.

IT KEEPS
GETTING
WORSE.

WHEN
DID THIS
MADNESS
BEGIN, MS.
COOPER?

SEVERAL
DAYS AGO.

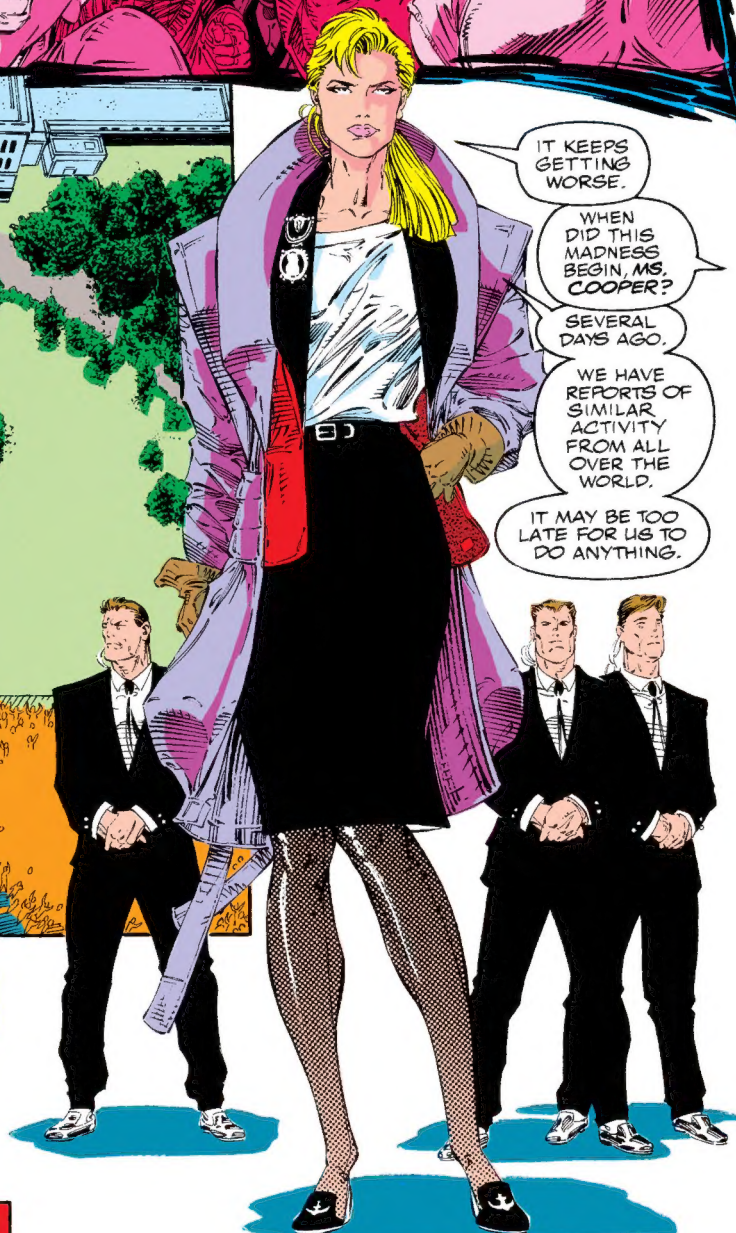
WE HAVE
REPORTS OF
SIMILAR
ACTIVITY
FROM ALL
OVER THE
WORLD.

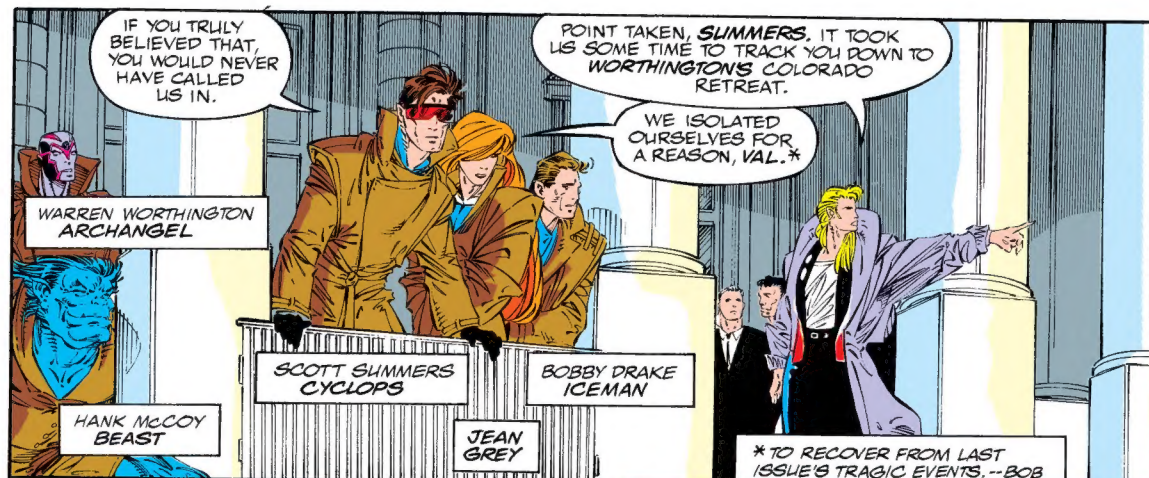
IT MAY BE TOO
LATE FOR US TO
DO ANYTHING.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE CONTINUATION OF THE
MUIR ISLAND / SHADOW KING
SAGA BEGUN IN X-MEN #279

X-FACTOR
IN
**CLASH
REUNION**





FABIAN NICIEZA
(WITH LOTS OF HELP)
WRITER

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TASK FORCE X
INKERS

MICHAEL HEISLER
LETTERER

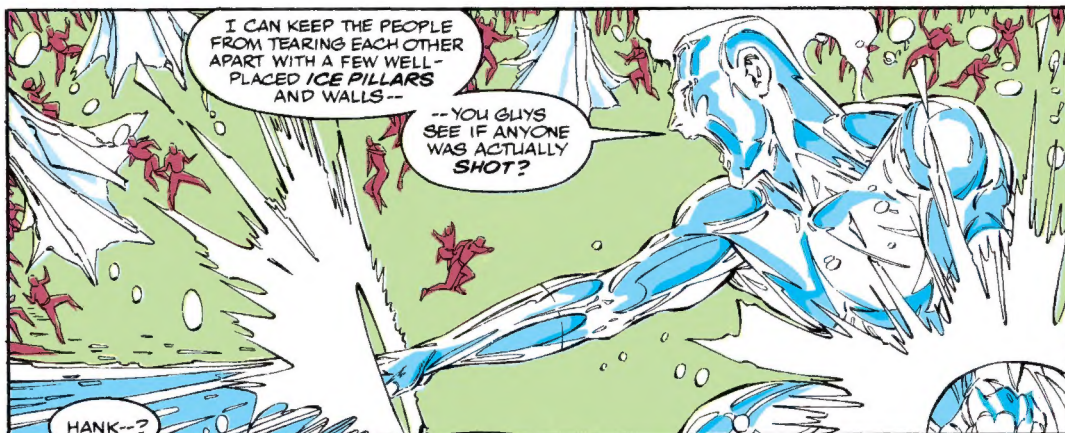
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BOB HARRAS
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TOM DEFALCO
RIOT CONTROL CONTROLLER

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I CAN KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM TEARING EACH OTHER APART WITH A FEW WELL-PLACED ICE PILLARS AND WALLS--

--YOU GUYS SEE IF ANYONE WAS ACTUALLY SHOT?

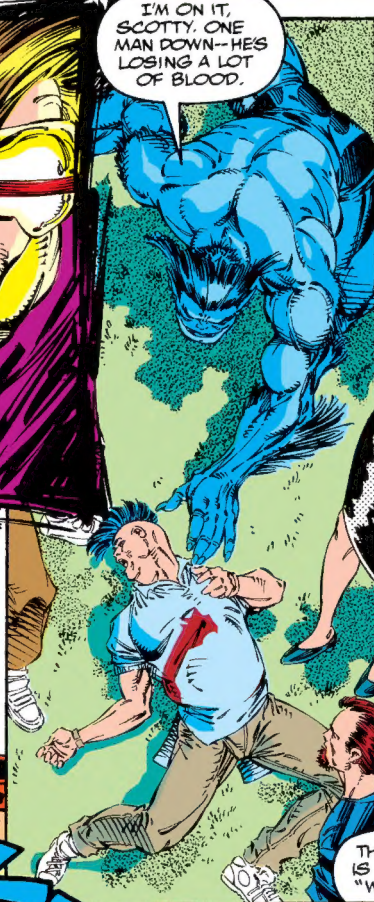
HANK--?



I'M ON IT, SCOTTY. ONE MAN DOWN--HE'S LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD.



I'LL TELEKINETICALLY LIFT HIM OUT, WARREN, FLY HIM TO THE AMBULANCES AT THE FRINGE OF THE CROWD!



THE QUESTION IS THEN RAISED, "WHO SHOT HIM?"

SHAK!

I'D HAVE TO GUESS IT'S THE ONE HOLDING THE GUN, HANK.





HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY WON'T BEGIN FIRING AWAY AS WELL?

WE CAN'T,
THAT'S THE
PROBLEM,
HANK...

...WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE BEING AFFECTED BY THIS "HATRED PLAGUE" AND WHY OTHERS AREN'T.

MUTIE
SCUM!

GORILLA
LOVER!

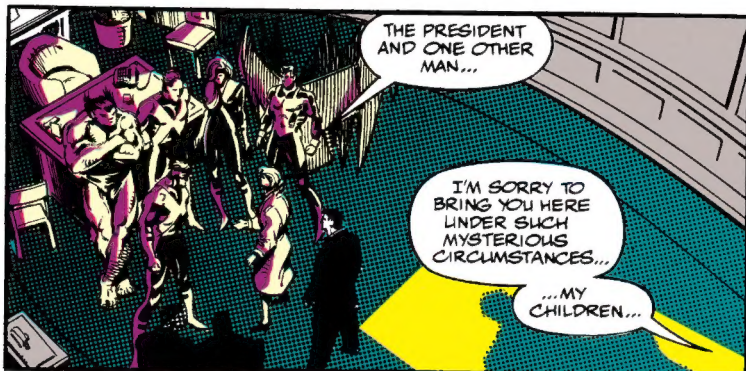
I ALMOST WISH
MY **TELEPATHIC**
POWERS HADN'T BEEN
RESTORED!

TACO
BOY!

-- FROM RACES,
CREEDS AND
COLORS TO DIS-
AGREEMENTS
OVER FASHION
TASTES!

AND IT'S OBVIOUS VAL
COOPER SUSPECTS **MILITANT**
ACTIVITY AS THE CAUSE
OF IT ALL.

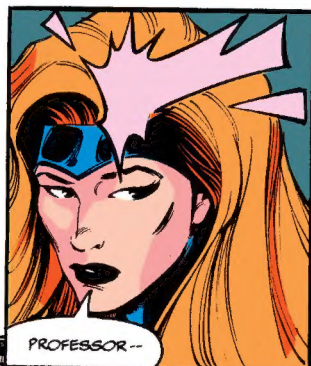
THAT'S WHY THE
PRESIDENT PERSON-
ALLY ASKED YOU BE
BROUGHT IN.



THE PRESIDENT
AND ONE OTHER
MAN...

I'M SORRY TO
BRING YOU HERE
UNDER SUCH
MYSTERIOUS
CIRCUMSTANCES...

...MY
CHILDREN...



PROFESSOR--



...BUT THE ENTIRE
WORLD HAS GREAT
NEED OF YOUR
ASSISTANCE.

IT IS TIME, IN
MANY WAYS, TO
DEFEAT THE VERY
REASON I FIRST
GATHERED YOU
ALL TOGETHER.

IF MY DREAM IS
EVER TO BE FULFILLED,
THE NIGHTMARE WROUGHT
BY THE **SHADOW KING**
MUST END!

MUIR ISLAND.
THE HEART OF
DARKNESS.

HERE, A MADNESS DECADES
IN THE MAKING IS BEARING
BITTER FRUIT...

...AND THE UNCANNY X-MEN
HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO
BE RIPE FOR THE SHADOW
KING'S PICKING...

SO BASICALLY, ROGUE,
IT'S AN ELECTROMAGNETIC
SCRAMBLING GUN.

IT TEMPORARILY
BLOCKS OUT THE
SHADOW KING'S
TELEPATHIC
WAVELENGTHS.

COURSE, AH
FIGURED.

IT'S JUST AN
APPETIZER--

--ONCE I
DISRUPT THE
MENTAL-HOLD
THE KING
HAS--

--I INJECT A
MICROSCOPIC
NEUROSYNAPTIC
BUFFER--

--WHICH PUTS YOU BACK
IN CONTROL OF YOUR OWN
THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.

I USED IT
ON WOLVERINE
SECONDS BEFORE
YOU SHOWED
UP.

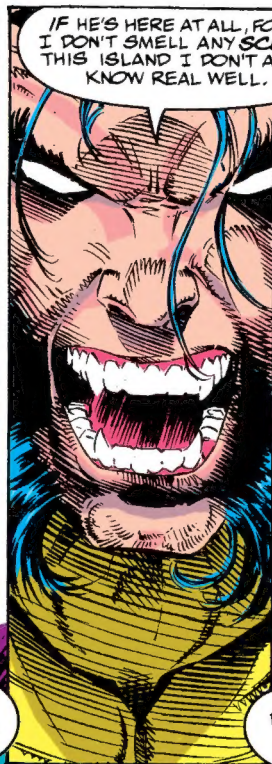
ALL RIGHT, SO AH
BOW AT YOUR FEET,
FORGE. YOUR MUTANT
ABILITY TAH INVENT
GIZMOS IS BETTER
THAN ANYBODY'S.

NOW WHAT?
CAN AH SHOW
OFF BY HITIN'
SOMETHIN'?

YOU'LL GET
YOUR CHANCE, GIRL.
WE'RE GOIN' AFTER
THE KING HIMSELF.

ELVIS? NAH.
READY FOR A
SHOWDOWN WITH
THE SHADOW KING,
ROGUE? GOOD.

PROBLEM IS,
WE HAVEN'T SEEN
HIM YET.

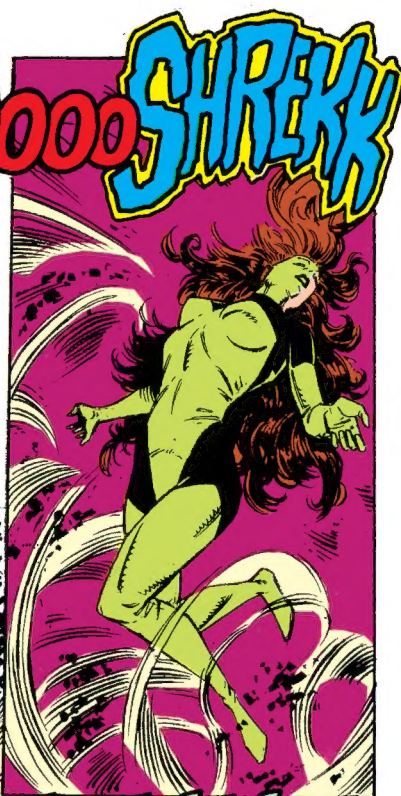


**BREEP
BREEP
BREEP**

EEEEEEEEEE

BANSHEE!



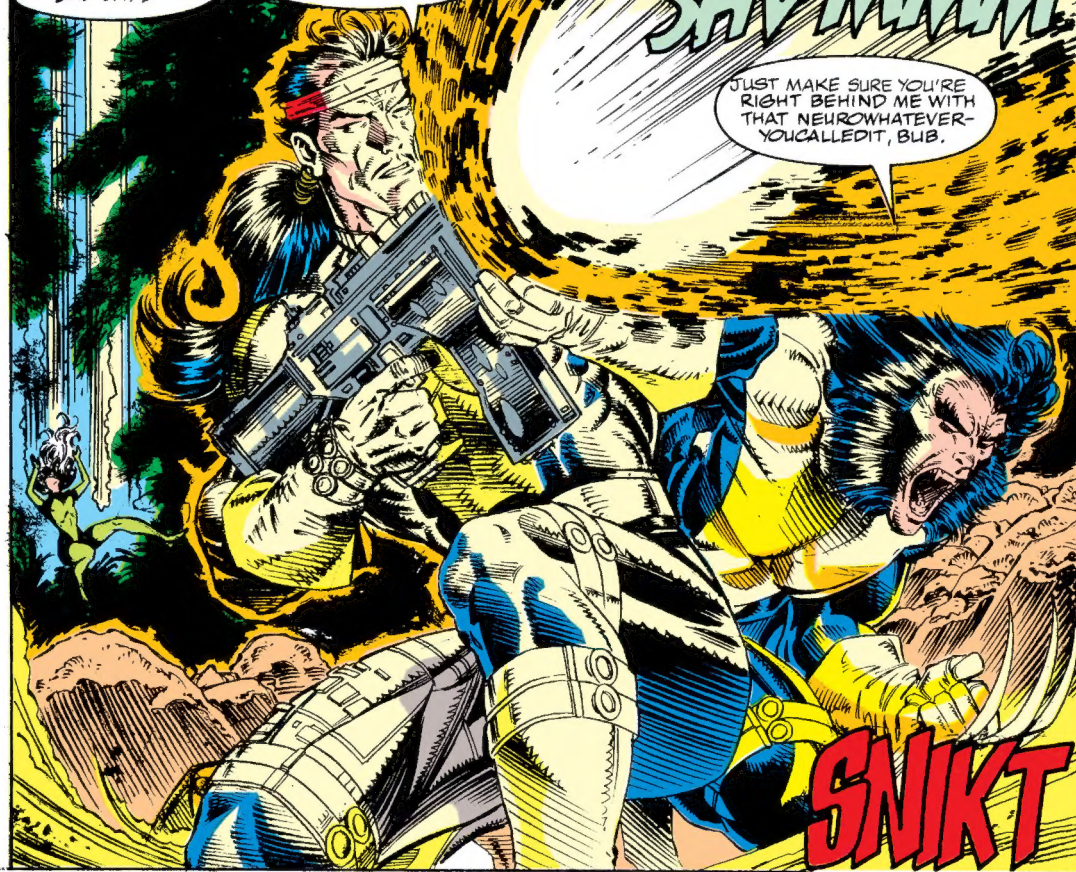


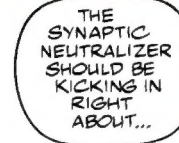
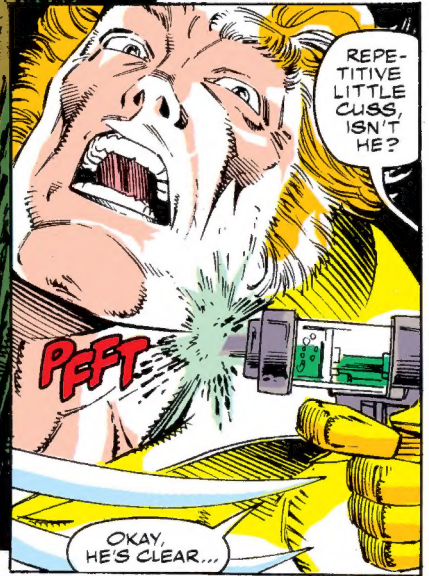
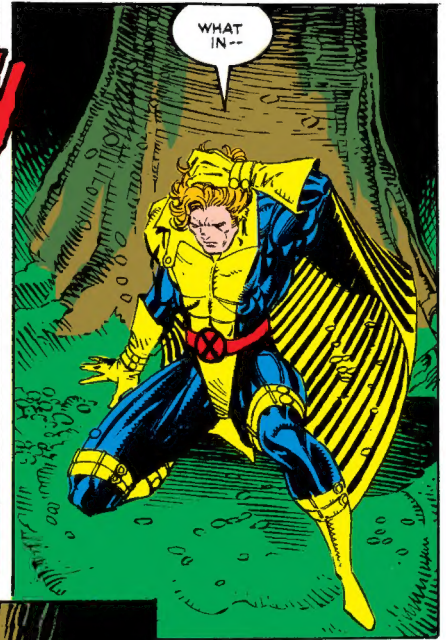
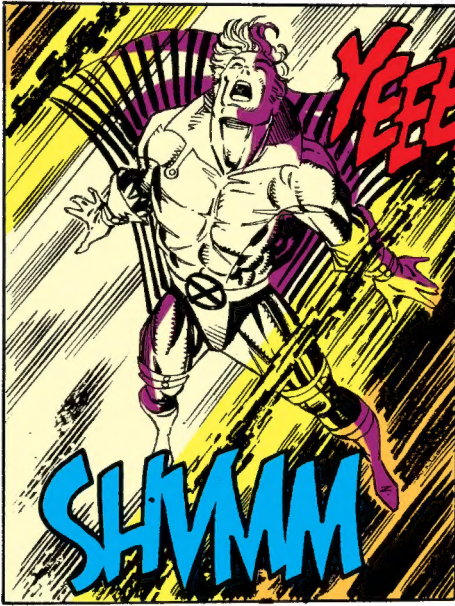
WHOA, EASIER SAID THAN DONE, IRISH IS LETTING GO LIKE PAVAROTTI ON A BAD DAY!

LOGAN--ON HIM QUICK! THE SCRAMBLER FIELD WILL ONLY WORK FOR A FEW SECONDS!

SHVMMMM

JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT BEHIND ME WITH THAT NEUROWHATEVER-YOUCALLEDIT, BUB.





WHAT COMES
NATURALLY FOR
THE X-MEN,
IRISH...

...WE'RE
SAVIN' THE
WORLD.

CARE TO
JOIN US?

YOU CAN START
BY TELLING US HOW
WE CAN INFILTRATE
THIS ISLAND--

--AND TEAR
DOWN THE
SHADOW KING'S
DIRTY LITTLE
THRONE!

EASIER
SAID THAN
DONE, I'M
AFRAID.

THE KING'S CREATING
A PSYCHOMETRIC BACKLASH
ALL ACROSS THE WORLD.

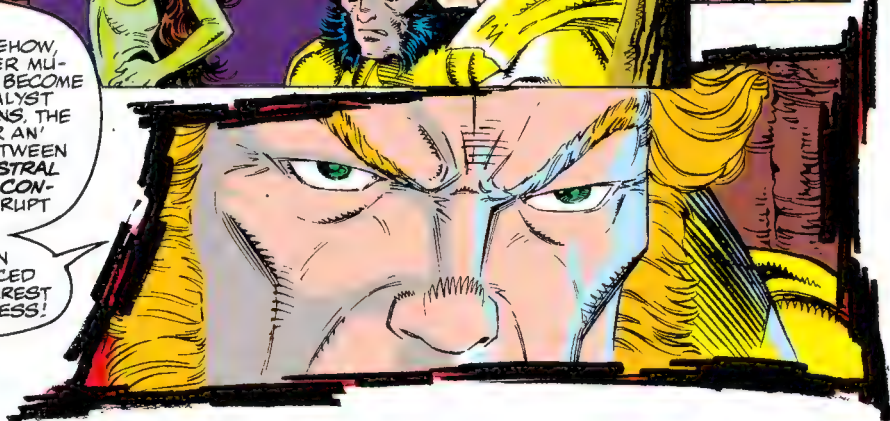
HE'S CAUSING
HATRED AN'
PREJUDICE T'
BOIL OVER--

--AN' ABSORBING
THAT NEGATIVE PSYCHIC
ENERGY TO FEED HIS LUST
F'R POWER.

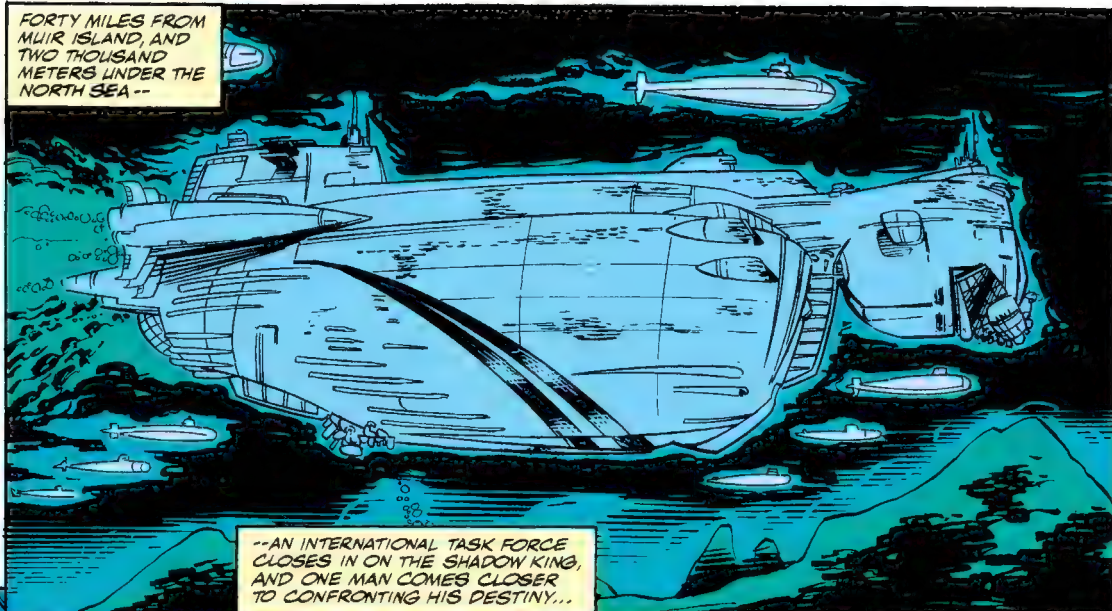
ABSORBIN'?
HOW?

HE'S USING LORNA
DANE--POLARIS. SOMEHOW,
SOMEWHERE, HER POWER MU-
TATED. THE POOR GIRL'S BECOME
A TYPE OF HUMAN CATALYST
FOR NEGATIVE EMOTIONS. THE
SHADOW KING TOOK HER AN'
MADE HER A NEXUS BETWEEN
OUR WORLD AN' THE ASTRAL
PLANE. DISRUPT THAT CON-
NECTION AN' WE'LL DISRUPT
HIM.

T' BRING THIS MADMAN
DOWN, WE MAY BE FORCED
T' KILL ONE OF OUR DEAREST
FRIENDS IN THE PROCESS!



FORTY MILES FROM
MUIR ISLAND, AND
TWO THOUSAND
METERS UNDER THE
NORTH SEA--



--AN INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE
CLOSES IN ON THE SHADOW KING,
AND ONE MAN COMES CLOSER
TO CONFRONTING HIS DESTINY...

YOU THINK
THIS WILL WORK,
XAVIER?

BETWEEN THE OCEAN
DEPTHS AND THE PSYCHIC
BAFFLES BUILT INTO THIS
SHIELD VESSEL, IT IS OUR
BEST CHANCE, AGENT
REISZ.

WHAT CAN
WE HOPE TO
DO?

AN ISLAND
STRONGHOLD MANNED
BY MUTANT SOLDIERS.

NOT SOLDIERS,
AGENT REISZ. THEY
ARE MY STUDENTS.
MY... FAMILY.

THIS SHADOW
KING, IF HE EVEN
EXISTS, HAS CREATED
THE ULTIMATE
FORTRESS.

USING THEM IN
THIS WAY IS A COR-
RUPTION OF ALL I
HAVE SOUGHT TO TEACH
THEM, THAT MANKIND
CAN LEARN TO LIVE
TOGETHER AND FOR-
GET THE PREJUDICES
AND HATREDS THAT
DIVIDE US SO
TRAGICALLY.

INDEED, THIS MADMAN
IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT
OF EVERYTHING I CREATED
THE X-MEN TO OPPOSE.

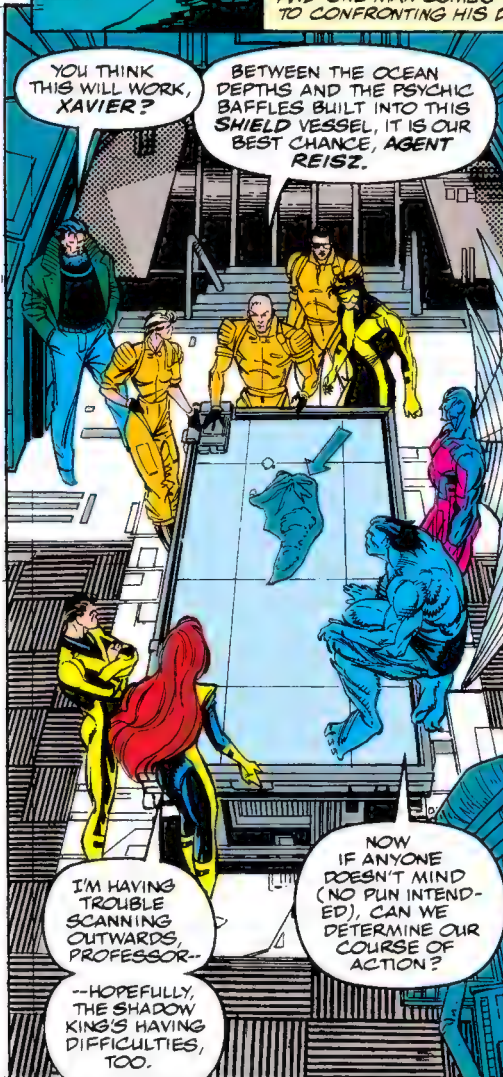
YOU COULD BE
WALKING INTO A
RIDICULOUSLY
SUICIDAL SITU-
ATION HERE.

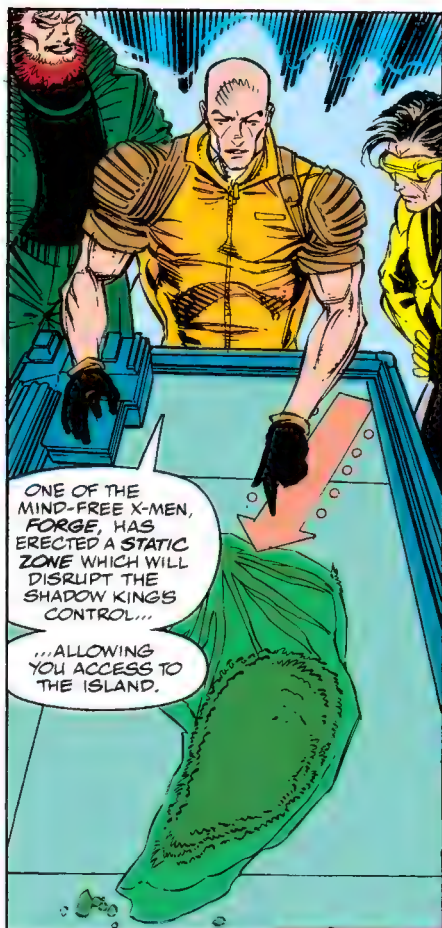
IT'S WHAT
WE DO BEST,
MS. COOPER.

I'M HAVING
TROUBLE
SCANNING
OUTWARDS,
PROFESSOR--

NOW
IF ANYONE
DOESN'T MIND
(NO PUN INTEND-
ED), CAN WE
DETERMINE OUR
COURSE OF
ACTION?

--HOPEFULLY,
THE SHADOW
KING'S HAVING
DIFFICULTIES,
TOO.





ONE OF THE MIND-FREE X-MEN, FORGE, HAS ERECTED A STATIC ZONE WHICH WILL DISRUPT THE SHADOW KING'S CONTROL...

...ALLOWING YOU ACCESS TO THE ISLAND.

PROFESSOR, HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO TAKE DOWN THE KING IF HE'S CONTROLLED ALL THE OTHER X-MEN?

YOU'RE NOT A PART OF THE ASSAULT FORCE AND JEAN ISN'T READY TO HANDLE A TELEPATH ON HIS LEVEL.

I CANNOT LEAVE THE SUB WITHOUT THE KING "READING" ME. ON THE OTHER HAND...

...THE SHADOW KING HAS NO IDEA THAT JEAN HAS REGAINED HER TELEPATHIC ABILITIES.



SO, IN ESSENCE, THOUGH I CAN'T ENGAGE THE KING IN DIRECT MIND-WAR--

--I CAN ACT AS A "MASK" FOR OUR PRESENCE ON THE ISLAND.

EXACTLY, JEAN. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, THE SHADOW KING IS A BEING OF PURE TELEPATHIC ENERGY WHICH IS MANIFESTED THROUGH THE ASTRAL PLANE.

HE HAS TAKEN HUMAN HOST BODIES FOR DECADES, PERHAPS CENTURIES--

--AND NEEDS THAT HUMAN HOST AS A LINK TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

I SUSPECT THE HUMAN HOST NOW IS SOMEONE ON MUIR ISLAND--POSSIBLY MOIRA MACTAGGART OR MY SON, DAVID-- LEGION.

IN ORDER TO GENERATE THIS MUCH PSYCHIC DISTURBANCE, THE KING MUST HAVE SOMEONE SERVING AS A NEXUS BETWEEN THE ASTRAL AND PHYSICAL PLANES.

WE HAVE TO FIND THE HUMAN HOST, AND THE NEXUS, AND SEVER THEM BOTH.

TEN MINUTES. WE'D BEST PREPARE.





THAT THE HUMAN HOST THEY ARE LOOKING FOR IS STANDING AMONG THEM?

IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE XAVIER PLAY THE PART OF THE FOOL!

WHY NOT SIMPLY KILL HIM RIGHT NOW?

YOU HAVE PERFORMED YOUR TASK WELL, VALERIE.

YOU HAVE LED THE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU.

THANK YOU, MASTER. BUT, AREN'T YOU AFRAID THEY SUSPECT?

FOR THE SAME REASON HE CANNOT ACT AGAINST ME-- THE TELEPATHIC DAMPENERS ON THIS VESSEL DISRUPT OUR POWERS.

AT ANY RATE, XAVIER IS A FOE WHOSE DEFEAT IS TO BE SAVED!

BEFORE I SEE HIM DEAD, I WISH TO SEE HIS DREAM DESTROYED-- HIS CHILDREN CRUSHED!

THAT IS A VICTORY WORTHY OF MY DECADES-- LONG WAIT!

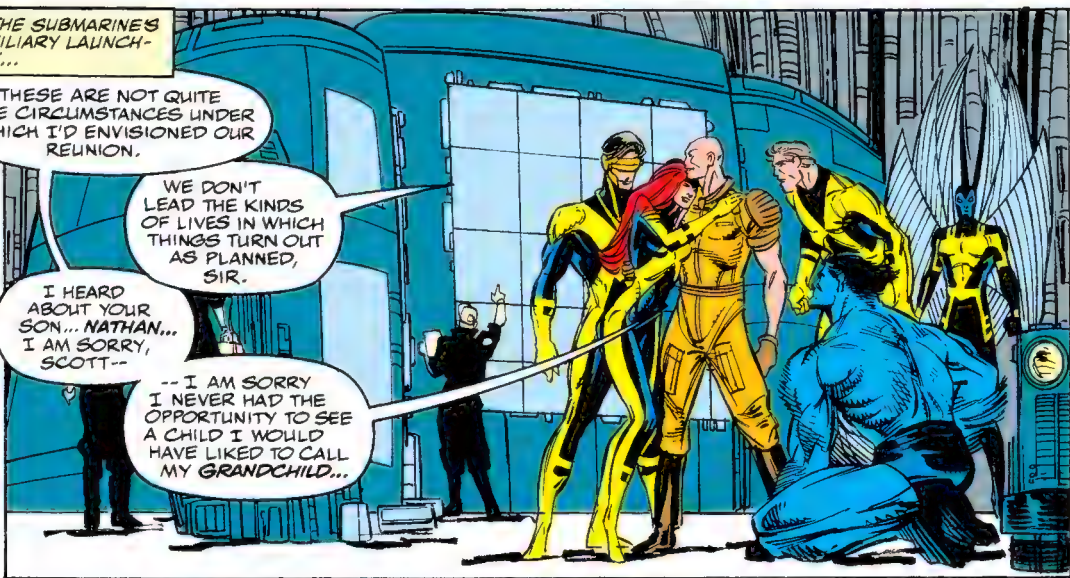
IN THE SUBMARINE'S AUXILIARY LAUNCH-BAY...

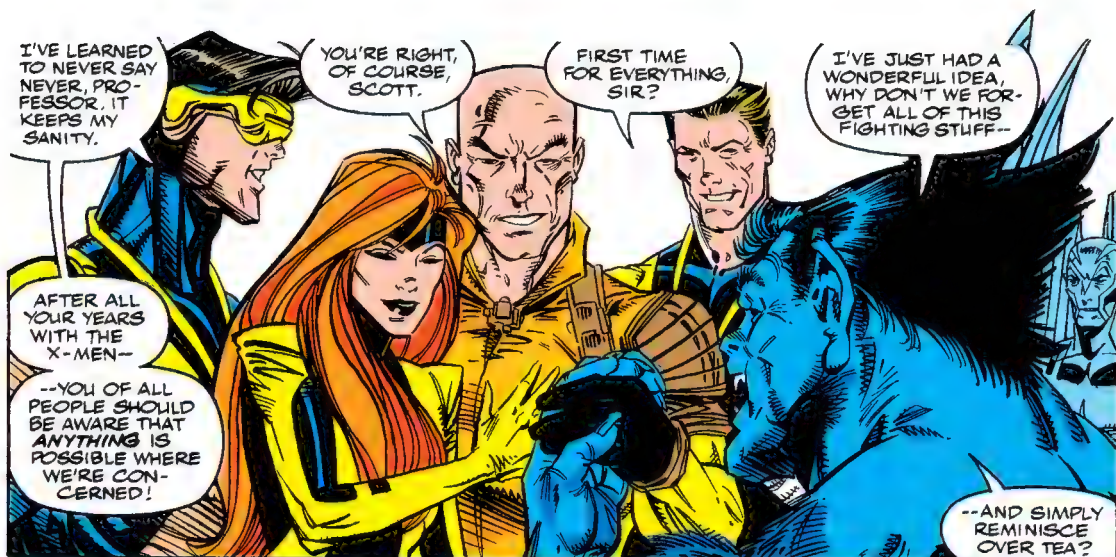
THESE ARE NOT QUITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH I'D ENVISIONED OUR REUNION.

WE DON'T LEAD THE KINDS OF LIVES IN WHICH THINGS TURN OUT AS PLANNED, SIR.

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR SON... NATHAN... I AM SORRY, SCOTT--

-- I AM SORRY I NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE A CHILD I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CALL MY GRANDCHILD...





I'VE LEARNED TO NEVER SAY NEVER, PROFESSOR. IT KEEPS MY SANITY.

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE, SCOTT.

FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING, SIR?

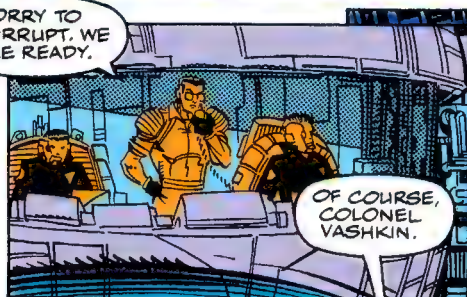
I'VE JUST HAD A WONDERFUL IDEA, WHY DON'T WE FORGET ALL OF THIS FIGHTING STUFF--

AFTER ALL YOUR YEARS WITH THE X-MEN--

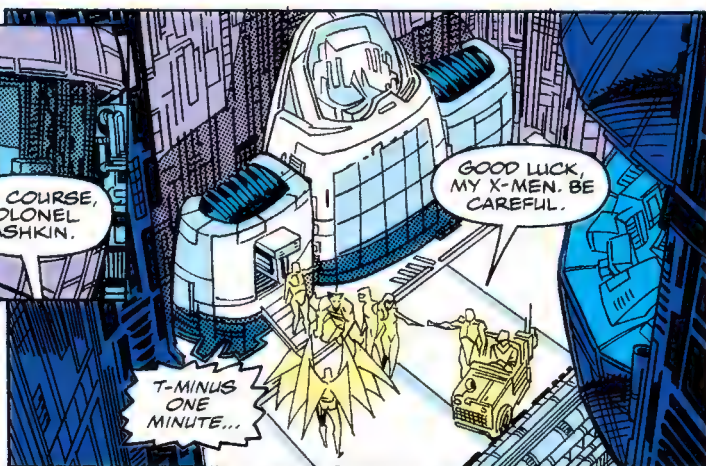
--YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHERE WE'RE CONCERNED!

--AND SIMPLY REMINISCENCE OVER TEA?

SORRY TO INTERRUPT. WE ARE READY.

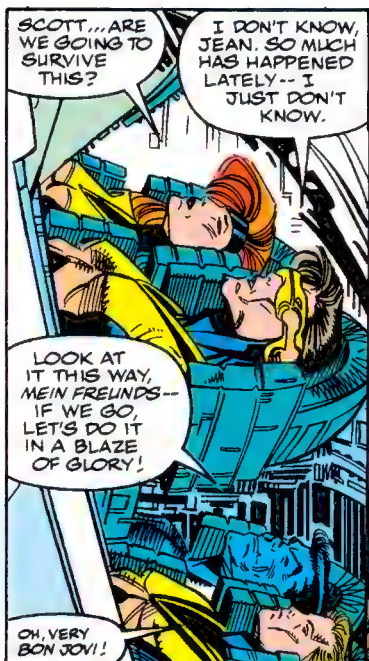


OF COURSE, COLONEL VASHKIN.



GOOD LUCK, MY X-MEN. BE CAREFUL.

T-MINUS ONE MINUTE...

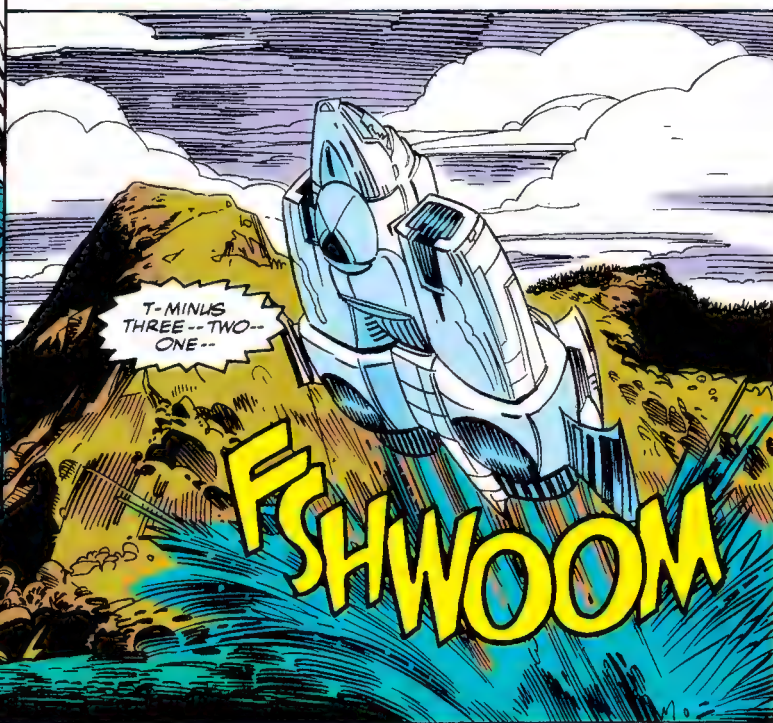


SCOTT... ARE WE GOING TO SURVIVE THIS?

I DON'T KNOW, JEAN. SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED LATELY-- I JUST DON'T KNOW.

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, MEIN FREUND-- IF WE GO, LET'S DO IT IN A BLAZE OF GLORY!

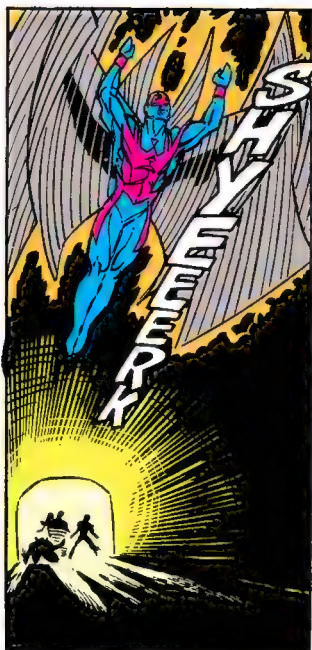
OH, VERY BON JOVI!



T-MINUS THREE-- TWO-- ONE--

FSHWOOM





I HAVE TARGET ACQUISITION.

WHO?

DON'T KNOW YET.



BUT I HAVE A FEELING I WILL VERY SOON.

SHVOORM



H'LO, WARREN.

SO RUDE OF YE T' DROP IN UNINVITED.

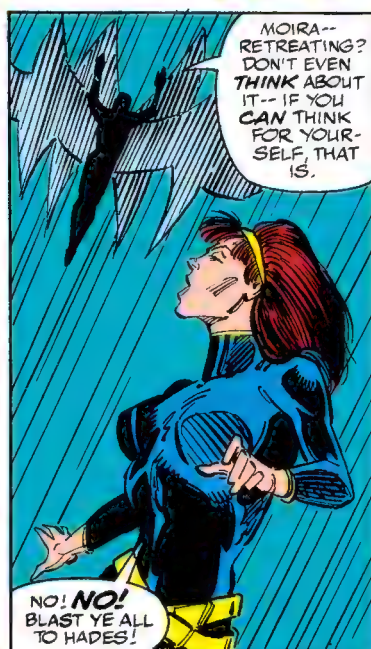
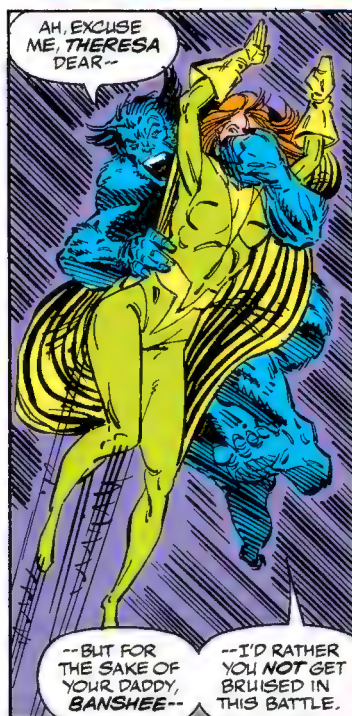
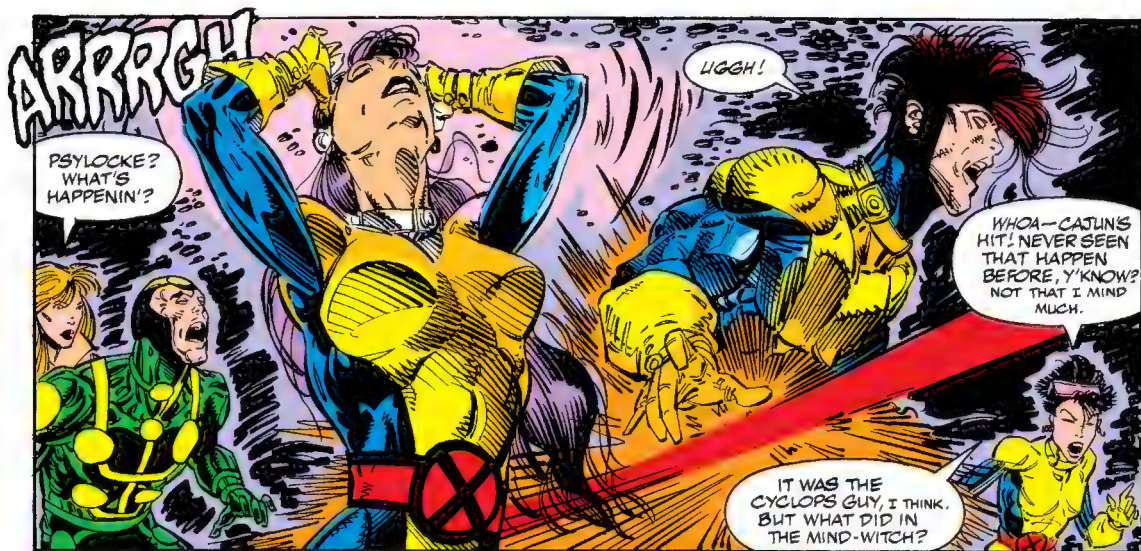
TARGETS CONFRONTED, TEAM.

HOW MANY?

ENOUGH TO MAKE IT A PARTY, SCOTT.

MADROX, MOIRA, PSYLOCKE, GAMBIT AND JUBILEE.

DON'T ENGAGE THEM ALONE--WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



CYCLOPS TO HOME BASE. WE'RE IN, WE'RE CLEAR.

WE MET SOME RESISTANCE, JEAN TOOK OUT PSYLOCKE -- WE ALSO NAILED MADROX, SIRYN, GAMBIT, JUBILEE AND MOIRA.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SHADOW KING PLAYS A TOUGHER MENTAL GAME THAN A PHYSICAL ONE.





OR HE MAY NOT!!

EITHER WAY, BOYS, GIRLS AND GORILLAS-- WE STILL MEAN TROUBLE!

JEANNIE, LOOK OUT!

PYROKINETIC ASSAULT--

--COULDN'T GET A TEKE SHIELD UP IN TIME!

I'LL SMOTHER THE FLAMES--!

AND I'LL SMOTHER YOUR LIFE!

THIS IS THE ENDGAME, CHARLES!

AS YOUR SON ENDS THE LIVES OF YOUR STUDENTS--

--SO SHALL I END YOURS!

VAL--NEED HELP--HURRY--

YOU FOOL! SHE IS MINE! JACOB REISZ HAS BEEN MY HUMAN HOST FOR MONTHS!

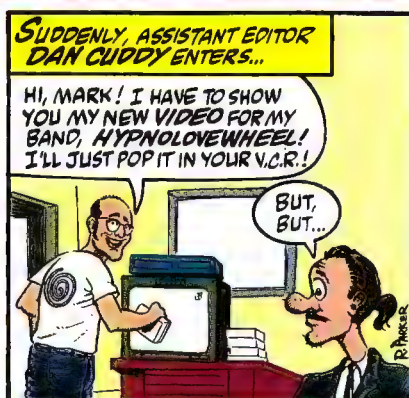
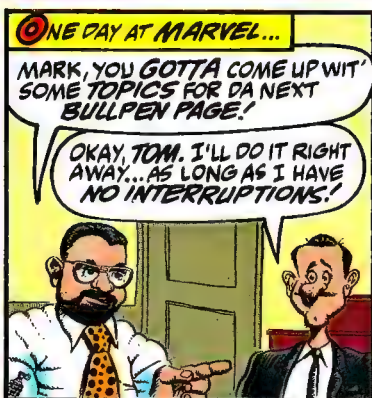
I HAVE BEEN STANDING BESIDE YOU ALL ALONG!

AND YOU BEG FOR COOPER'S HELP? (IDIOT! THE WOMAN IS MINE!

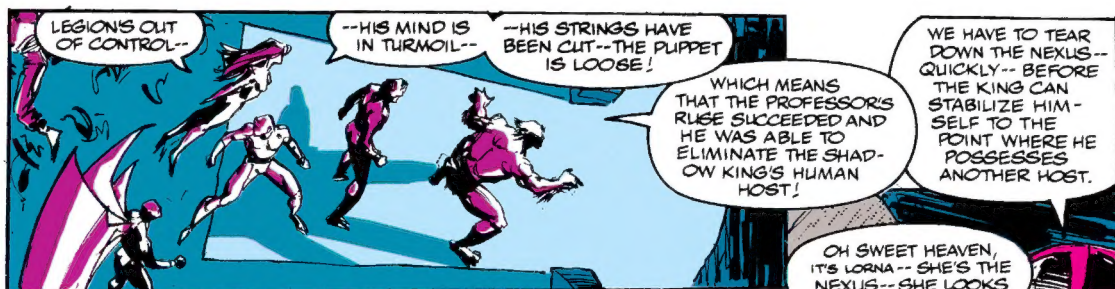
SEE HOW YOUR LIFE ENDS! "THE GREAT TELEPATH"-- UNABLE TO KNOW THE DEADLY THOUGHTS OF THOSE AROUND HIM!



STAN'S SOAPBOX by Stan Lee & John Ramita







LEGION'S OUT OF CONTROL--

--HIS MIND IS IN TURMOIL--

--HIS STRINGS HAVE BEEN CUT--THE PUPPET IS LOOSE!

WHICH MEANS THAT THE PROFESSOR'S RUSE SUCCEEDED AND HE WAS ABLE TO ELIMINATE THE SHADOW KING'S HUMAN HOST!

WE HAVE TO TEAR DOWN THE NEXUS-- QUICKLY-- BEFORE THE KING CAN STABILIZE HIMSELF TO THE POINT WHERE HE POSSESSES ANOTHER HOST.

OH SWEET HEAVEN, IT'S LORNA-- SHE'S THE NEXUS-- SHE LOOKS SO-- HELPLESS--

WHAT IF DISRUPTING THIS NEXUS HURTS HER? WE CAN'T--

WE MAY HAVE NO CHOICE, BOBBY.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE ONCE MEANT TO YOU, ROBERT--

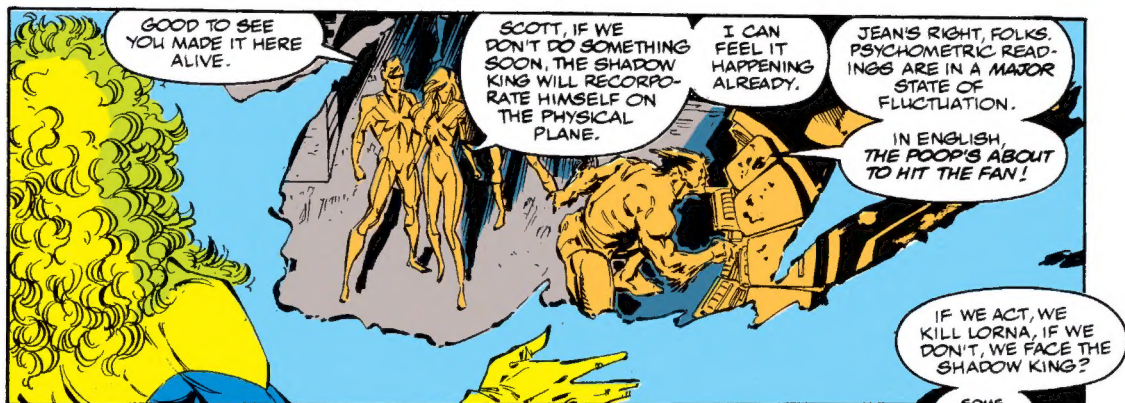
--BUT IN ORDER TO TRAP THE KING IN THE ASTRAL PLANE, THE NEXUS MUST BE SEALED OFF.

I KNOW--IT'S JUST-- I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE HER-- I-- LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH--

DON'T TOUCH POLARIS!

IF YOU BREAK THE LINK SHE HAS NOW, YOU MAY AS WELL BE KILLIN' HER!







AND FINALLY, SO ARE YOU!!

TO BE CONCLUDED IN
UNCANNY X-MEN #280

AND NEXT ISSUE: A SPECIAL EPILOGUE INTRODUCING NEW WRITER
PETER DAVID, AND FEATURING MORE SURPRISES THAN YOU COULD
BELIEVE POSSIBLE FOR A BUCK (AS IF THIS PAGE WEREN'T ENOUGH)!